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GERMAN STUDENTS REPORT ON BAUTZEN CONCENTRATION CAMP

According to six German students who have been released from Bautzen concentration camp, which is located east of Dresden in the vicinity of the junction of the Polish, Czechoslovakian, and East German frontiers and which is the largest such camp in East Germany, 20,000 prisoners have died at this camp since the end of the war.

The report of the six students on conditions within the notorious Bautzen camp has been published by the West German government and states that since 1945 three cycles of prisoners have died in this Russian-operated camp. Bautzen was built to house between 1,200 and 1,500 prisoners but today there are 7,500 prisoners there; most of them have been sentenced by Russian military courts. At Bautzen there are 800 prisoners under the age of 18 and 2,000 to 2,500 under the age of 22.

Dead inmates are carted by their living comrades to a mound where they are buried in mass graves. Those prisoners who transported corpses during the period when the death rate was greatest were one day sent away by the Russians to unknown destinations and it is presumed that they were liquidated because they knew too much.

The highest death rate in the camp is among prisoners around 13 or 14 years old. Many of these children were locked up for trifles such as, for example, having found a revolver in a pile of ruins and not having reported it. According to the students' report, the sentence for such an offense was 25 years imprisonment.

At Bautzen 380 men are assigned to each hall. There is less than 1 square meter of space per prisoner. The quarters are heated only two hours daily, when warm air is blown in. The inmates' clothing consists of a thin prison uniform, a pair of cotton drawers, and a shirt. Stockings are seldom issued and are of such poor quality that they wear out quickly, so the prisoners have to go barefoot.

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For infringement of camp regulations, prisoners are confined to extremely small cells. The severest punishment is 9 weeks in a windowless room which measures  $1\frac{1}{2}$  x  $1\frac{1}{2}$  meters.

Health conditions in the camp are extremely poor. Food for the inmates consists of  $\frac{3}{4}$  liter of thin soup in the morning, at noon a somewhat thicker soup with small pieces of potato, and 350 grams of bread in the evening. Every third day 60 grams of fat, 75 grams of sugar, and 90 grams of marmalade are rationed out.

Medical treatment at the camp is taken care of mainly by first-aid attendants. There is very little medicine. Prisoners who obviously have tuberculosis often must remain in the same room with the other prisoners for long periods of time. The prison guards at Bautzen are mainly Germans from the East German Security Police.

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